

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06122 121259Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 IO-14 SPM-01 AID-20 HEW-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 PC-10 DRC-01

SCI-06 /155 W

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P 112217Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3745

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E O 11652 NA

TAGS PA TBIO SWEL CO

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF HEALTH REQUESTS "FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAS"

TO STOP VACCINATION PROGRAMS

DEPT PLEASES PASS AS INFO TO ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

REF BOGOTA 6058

1. THE MINOF HEALTH, IN A JULY 8 NOTE TO THE LOCAL DIRECTOR OF THE "FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAS" PROGRAM (REFTEL) REQUESTED THE GROUP TO HALT ITS PROGRAM OF MEASLES VACCINATIONS.
2. THE MIN OF HEALTH, ACCORDING TO THE JULY 11 EDITION OF EL TIEMPO, SUSPENDED THE PROGRAM BECAUSE THE MISINFORMATION GENERATED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF "FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAS" COULD LEAD TO A REJECTION BY THE PUBLIC OF THE MIN'S ENTIRE VACCINATION PROGRAM.
3. THE MINISTRY PUBLICLY THANKED THE VOLUNTEER GROUP FOR ITS EFFORTS AND COOPERATION. THE MIN SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "A COMPLETELY FALSE STORY WAS CIRCULATED, STATING THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE (FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAS) WERE STERILIZING OUR CHILDREN."

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THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THIS INFO WILL NOT BE TO THE NORTH AMERICANS.

THEY WERE ACTING IN COORDINATION WITH THE MINISTRY. BUT DO YOU
KNOW THE DAMAGE (THIS INFORMATION CAN) CAUSE THE POPULATION?
THE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO RESIST FURTHER VACCINATIONS. MORE THAN
FOUR THOUSAND CHILDREN A YEAR DIE FROM MEASLES ALONE."

4. OFFICIALS OF THE "FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAS" PROGRAM HAVE TOLD
THE EMBASSY THAT THEY HAVE SUSPENDED THEIR VACCINATION PROGRAMS
IN COLOMBIA AND IN THE OTHER SIX LA COUNTRIES (BOLIVIA, GUATEMALA,
NICARAGUA, ECUADOR, PERU AND PARAGUAY) WHERE THEY HAD BEEN ACTIVE.
VAKY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA DIP POSTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: martinml
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